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Wyoming Healthcare Commission

May 2, 2007

Greetings:

The Wyoming Health Information Organization (WyHIO) is an active participant in the efforts of the Wyoming healthcare community to apply for funding under the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program. Wyoming's effort is broad based, involving 12 organizations seeking to increase the use of telehealth and telemedicine in Wyoming.

The mission of the WYHIO is to enhance access, quality, safety, and the efficiency of healthcare in Wyoming through the implementation of electronic information exchange and interoperability that is secure and confidential and utilizes technology that will assure interconnectivity within Wyoming and the rest of the nation. The WyHIO believes the proposed network will bring the benefits of innovative telehealth and, in particular, telemedicine services to those areas of Wyoming where the need for those benefits is most acute

Additionally, the WyHIO will provide a member for the project Steering Committee. The Committee will:

- Provide oversight during the competitive procurement process for the design, implementation, and operation of the network;
- Develop a plan for growth and sustainability;
- Provide a forum for member input, foster collaboration among members; and
- Strengthen the ability of network members to function as a consortium.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Biggio
WyHIO Executive Director



Cheyenne Regional Medical Center

214 EAST 23RD STREET
CHEYENNE, WY 82001

307-634-2273

www.crmcwy.org

May 7, 2007

To whom it may concern:

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, as one of a few regional referral centers in the state, is supportive of the application submitted to the FCC for a pilot project to connect all hospitals and other selected healthcare providers for the purpose of developing a healthcare data and video network.

Wyoming is a rural and frontier state that is in desperate need of a state-wide infrastructure that will allow communication with other facilities and providers to facilitate the provision of healthcare to its residents. This infrastructure is essential to improving the health of residents of Wyoming in part because of the long distances traveled to obtain critical healthcare services that may not be provided in some rural and frontier communities. This infrastructure may even allow residents to stay in their own communities rather than travel.

During the past three years Cheyenne Regional Medical Center has worked to develop a video-conferencing network in a small corner of Wyoming. This project has been a partnership amongst several facilities in the southeast corner of the state and has been funded by an OAT grant with matching funds from Cheyenne Regional Medical Center. Other groups have supported CRMC's efforts including the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Health Information Organization, the Wyoming Department of Health and many others that have an interest in supporting the deployment of technology that will facilitate better healthcare for the residents of Wyoming. Although this is a small project, it confirms the value of a larger state-wide network.

Personally, I have been involved with telehealth projects since 1996 as a hospital administrator in a small Wyoming community when video conferencing was deployed for the first time in that community, as the Outreach Director for a northeast Colorado system with the responsibility for development and utilization of the video conferencing systems in a region, and now as the Outreach Director for Cheyenne Regional Medical Center which includes the development and deployment of video and data networks within CRMC's service area.

I have been asked to represent Cheyenne Regional Medical Center on the steering committee should the grant be funded and look forward to being part of a project that will have a significant positive impact on healthcare in the state of Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Dana Barnett
Director, Outreach Services



May 2, 2007

Rex E. Gantenbein, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Rural Health Research and Education
University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY 82071

Dear Rex:

On behalf of the membership of the Wyoming Hospital Association, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for grant funding under the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program. As a member of the steering committee representing the interest of the Wyoming healthcare community, I am extremely excited about the tremendous potential for improving our healthcare environment, should we be successful in obtaining the grant funds.

In a frontier state like ours, access to healthcare and healthcare education for our citizens has always provided various challenges. In many cases, there are great distances between our hospitals and inclement weather often plays a role in healthcare decisions. Additionally, over half of our acute care hospitals are Critical Access Hospitals, with no more than twenty-five beds in their facility.

The successful implementation of a wide-spread telehealth system will go a long way to overcoming many of the obstacles we currently face and have been experiencing for numerous decades. It will vastly overhaul the way in which healthcare has been historically delivered in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/original with signature on file/

Dan Perdue
President
Wyoming Hospital Association

WYPCA

Wyoming Primary Care Association

A network of health centers committed to serving the needs of the underserved.

May 1, 2007

Rex E. Gantenbein, PhD
Center for Rural Health Research & Education (CRHRE)
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Avenue
Laramie, WY 82071

Dr. Gantenbein:

I wanted to provide you with a letter of support for the construction of the Wyoming Telehealth Network (WyTeN) with the intent to connect hospitals, mental health clinics, and substance abuse treatment centers throughout Wyoming. I appreciate your office serving as the lead agency on this application in an effort to provide advanced telecommunications services in support of increased information sharing and access to services.

At the present time, the Wyoming Primary Care Association provides support to clinics in the following locations:

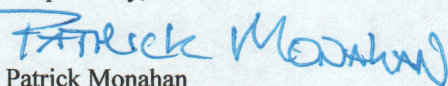
- Cheyenne Health & Wellness Center
- Community Health Center of Central Wyoming (Casper)
- Health Care for the Homeless Clinic (Casper)
- Health Care for the Homeless Clinic (Cheyenne)
- Migrant/Seasonal Farm Worker Clinic (Powell and Worland)
- Fremont County
 - Awaiting word on federal New Access Point funding, anticipated date of award June 2007).

Our member clinics receive partial federal funding to off set costs associated with providing a majority of their services to uninsured and or underinsured patients. In many cases, these patients experience a higher incident rate of mental health and substance abuse due to limited financial and social support systems. This grant opportunity will help to "close" the distance in many of the remote areas of Wyoming especially for a population who often experiences difficulty in obtaining reliable travel to their medical appointments.

Our office is looking forward to partnering with you on this endeavor and is requesting that you add Ms. Kristy Westfall, (Network Administrator/Data Manager) to your steering committee. Her presence on this committee will provide representation for our clinics to ensure that the vulnerable populations the clinics serve have options in the delivery of their health care.

Thank you in advance for reviewing this letter. Please call me at 307-632-5743 if you need any additional documentation.

Respectfully,



Patrick Monahan
Director, WYPCA

2601 Central Avenue - Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 632-5743 Fax: (307) 638-6103 www.wypca.org

Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

May 2, 2007

Rex E. Gantenbein, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Rural Health Research and Education
University of Wyoming, Laramie WY 82071

Dear Mr. Gantenbein:

This letter is in support of your application for the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) fund to support the construction of a state broadband network and services. The goal of the proposed project will be for the constructing of the Wyoming Telehealth Network (WyTeN), a high-speed telecommunication network. This network will connect hospitals, mental health clinics, and substance abuse treatment centers throughout the state of Wyoming to enhance public and non-profit health care providers' access to advance telecommunications and information services.

In 2004, The University of Wyoming, Center for Rural Health Research and Education and Wyoming Office of Telehealth formed the Wyoming Network for Telehealth (WyNETTE). WyNette's mission is to improve access and quality health care in Wyoming through information and telecommunications technology. The primary objectives are to (1) increase health care access and opportunities for the state's residents through telemedicine; (2) increase the number, types, and skills of health professionals in the state through distance delivery of health care education and training; and (3) increase access to information to support both health care and the administration of care through informatics and information technology, research, and policy development.

The Office of Multicultural Health and TeleHealth is proud to provide ongoing support for this project and acknowledge our membership commitment to serve in the Steering Committee for the common goal to improve quality health care. Please contact me if there is any way I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Betty Sones, Section Chief
Wyoming Office of Multicultural Health and
Office of TeleHealth

Community and Rural Health
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